

of 1949. For almost 20 years Mike served in the Office of the General Counsel. In addition, he served as counsel to the Office of Congressional Affairs, the Public Buildings Service, the Office of Government-wide Policy, and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. In 2009, Mike was appointed to the Senior Executive Service. His list of opinions was endless, and his advice was sought after and followed.

Mike was justifiably proud of his legal contributions to GSA. However, his pride in his legal career was always exceeded by his pride in his family, his loving wife Shereen and his two outstanding sons, Mitchell and Corey. As a parent and husband, he was immensely proud of their accomplishments, their community involvement, and their love for each other. Mike made and maintained legions of friendships. His friends, who will cherish his memory and joyful spirit, will join me today with honor and great sadness to pay tribute to Michael J. Wooten.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED
STATES BORDER PATROL'S 85TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the brave men and women of the United States Border Patrol on the occasion of their agency's 85th anniversary.

The Border Patrol is the first line of defense for our nation. When it was established in the early part of the last century, its only posts were in Detroit, Michigan, and El Paso, Texas. The first agents were issued a badge and a revolver but they had to provide their own horses and saddles. Fortunately, the federal government paid for the feed.

Since its founding in 1924, the Border Patrol has grown and become a modern agency in every way. While some Border Patrol agents still ride horses, they all now use technology that their predecessors could not have imagined. Their tools and strategies have changed over time but their original mission remains the same. Each day they put on their uniforms and go out to protect and defend our borders.

Representing the 8th Congressional District in Southeastern Arizona, I have had the privilege of witnessing first-hand the Border Patrol's important work. It has been a highlight of my time in Congress to meet the men and women of the Tucson Sector of the Border Patrol who serve in one of the most challenging regions in our country. While the Tucson Sector represents only 13 percent of our border with Mexico, it accounts for close to 50 percent of the Border Patrol's apprehensions and drug seizures.

Under the exceptional leadership of Tucson Sector Chief Patrol Agent Robert Gilbert, great progress has been achieved in making our border more secure. Chief Gilbert has assembled an outstanding top management team including Deputy Chief Patrol Agent Robert Boatwright and Division Chiefs John Fitzpatrick and Jeanne Ray-Condon. In addition to implementing effective new strategies to deal with the high volume of drug and human smuggling, they have been responsive to my inquiries on behalf of constituents and

they have reached out to establish partnerships with local residents, ranchers and business owners.

The daily work of the Border Patrol is conducted by a force of hard working agents who carry out their duty with honor and distinction in some of the most rugged territory in the nation. I am proud of the relationship we have established with the Executive Board of the National Border Patrol Council, Local 2544, which represents the agents who work in the Tucson Sector. The agents on the ground are capably represented by Edward Tuffly, Local 2544 President, and the members of his Executive Board, Richard Martinez, Arturo Del Cueto, David Hull and Kurt Kelley. They keep me apprised of the needs and concerns of their members so that I can better fight for the resources that they must have to safely and effectively do their jobs.

My 9,000-square mile district includes 114 miles of international border. The Border Patrol's Tucson Sector is ground zero for the trafficking of humans and drugs into our country. Each day, the agents stationed here confront extraordinary risks to keep us safe. They face armed smugglers, harsh desert terrain and weather extremes. Each day, they illustrate what it means to be dedicated to duty and to country. Border Patrol agents serve us with patriotism and commitment and, as a nation, we owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

On behalf of the people of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I extend my deepest appreciation to the men and women of the Tucson Sector of the Border Patrol and to their colleagues who work all across our borders.

COMMEMORATING REAR ADMIRAL
BENNETT S. "BUD" SPARKS,
U.S.C.G.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rear Admiral Bennett "Bud" Sparks, who passed away May 22 after a lifetime of service to our country in the Coast Guard. Admiral Sparks' dedication to our country and his devotion to his family and his community deserve the highest commendation.

Admiral Sparks was born on October 10, 1925, and enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in 1942. His service spanned the globe and he saw action in the Atlantic, Pacific and European theaters of operations while flying as a combat aircrewman on both antisubmarine and air-sea rescue missions. After the War, he transferred to the active Coast Guard, where he received a field promotion to ensign in 1957 after having served in all enlisted ranks through chief petty officer.

He later flew mapping missions over Alaska from 1946 to 1957 for the Coast Guard and as a civilian. In 1966 he took up his first of nine consecutive commands over 23 years. During this time, he served as commanding officer of four Coast Guard Units, three Coast Guard Groups and two U.S. Navy Maritime Defense Zone Sectors. He attained flag rank in 1985, and received his second star in 1987.

Throughout his career, Admiral Sparks received numerous decorations for his service. Among them are the Navy Distinguished Public Service medal, two Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service medals, the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service medal, two Coast Guard commendation medals, the Coast Guard Achievement medal, the Arctic Service medal and, of course, his Coast Guard Combat Air Crew Wings.

Admiral Sparks was also a dedicated advocate for other reserve officers, fellow veterans and his community. He has served as both president of the Reserve Officer's Association of the United States—the first Coast Guard officer to hold this position—and as Chief of the U.S. Delegation to the Inter-Allied Confederation of Reserve Officers at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. He also chaired the California Veterans Board, where he worked tirelessly to ensure and enhance the rights and benefits of California Veterans, and was active on the board of the North Bay Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Nevada.

However, perhaps the most enduring legacy of Admiral Sparks will be as the devoted husband of his wife Betty and as a loving father and grandfather. He is survived by four of his children; Bennett Jr., James, John and Julieann, his sister Doris, as well as his 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting at this time that we honor the life, service and memory of Admiral Sparks. His dedication to his country, his family and community are a testament to a great man who will long be remembered by those who knew him. We are lucky to have had him as a neighbor, a friend and an inspiration.

SOUTHWESTERN RANDOLPH—
CLOSE TO PERFECTION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, perfection is difficult to achieve in life—and perhaps even more so in sports—so it is noteworthy when any team comes so close to that achievement. A high school softball team in our congressional district came within one win of a perfect season. Even with that one loss, the team captured a state championship. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to congratulate the softball team of Southwestern Randolph High School for winning the North Carolina 3A state championship. This is the second 3A title in three years the Cougars have won.

The team was led by Head Coach Steve Taylor who was able to bring the team together and make them believe they were capable of anything. As a result, the Cougars finished the season with an impressive 30–1 record that was capped with a 5–2 win over Asheville T.C. Roberson High School on June 6, 2009.

The championship season was a team effort led by seniors Anna Maness, Holly Berry, and Brittany Jones, juniors Erin Billups, Olivia Hickman, Cheryl Coley, and Hanna Hughes, sophomores Cynthia Hayes, Julia Callicutt,

Sydney Hyden, Kelsey Hoover, Victoria Hunt, and Sloan King, and freshmen Dee Chriscoe, Paige Parrish, Brooke Hayes, Kaylee King, and Hayleigh Clapp.

Also assisting the team during this outstanding 30–1 season were assistant coaches Bobby Berry, Robert Hayes, Wendal Seawell, and Angela Hoover.

Again, on behalf of the Sixth District, we would like to congratulate Principal Dr. Chris Vecchione, Athletic Director Randy Key, Head Coach Steve Taylor, and all who contributed to this outstanding season. Congratulations to Southwestern Randolph High School on a spectacular season and for winning the North Carolina 3A state championship.

A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF
DR. DANIEL C. UDOJI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Daniel C. Udoji, a self-employed medical provider in Brooklyn.

Dr. Udoji was born in Egbu-Owerri, Eastern Nigeria to Chief Benjamin and Mrs. Dorothy Udoji and lived there until 1954. Dr. Udoji left Nigeria for London in 1957 for further education at University College Ibadan and graduated with a M.B./B.S. in 1964.

During the Nigerian-Biafra Civil War, from 1967 to 1970, Dr. Udoji provided medical and surgical services to refugees and displaced persons. After his commendable medical assistance during the Nigerian-Biafra Civil War, Dr. Udoji proceeded to the United Kingdom for postgraduate Medical Studies at Postgraduate Medical School in Scotland and University Hospital of Wales in Wales. After completion of his studies, Dr. Udoji travelled to the United States to complete his residency at V.A. Hospital and Downstate Medical Center and at Long Island Jewish Medical Center & Queens Hospital.

Following his residency, Dr. Udoji worked as an internist at V.A. Medical Center in Brooklyn from 1978 to 1986. From 1988 to 1992, Dr. Udoji provided medical services to senior citizens at the Senior Citizen Center on Bergen Street in Brooklyn. Dr. Udoji has been providing medical services to the homeless population in Brooklyn since 1989 at the Salvation Army under the auspices of Catholic Charities. Dr. Udoji has over forty years of experience and continues to work in the Brooklyn area.

Dr. Udoji is married to Obiageli with whom he has five grown children and two grandchildren. His hobbies include gardening and photography.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Daniel C. Udoji.

CONGRATULATING RALPH CROSBY
FOR BEING NAMED BOSS OF THE
YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to

honor Ralph Crosby for being named “Boss of the Year” for 2009 by the Top-Side Aviation Club. The “Boss of the Year” is one of the club’s most prestigious honors, and Ralph is most deserving of this award in recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of EADS North America. He is one of those rare, one-in-a-million type of individuals whom, I am fortunate to know and call my friend.

Throughout his entire life, Ralph’s work ethic, his love of family, country, and God have all contributed to his success and to receiving this prestigious award.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Ralph was appointed to West Point by Senator Strom Thurmond. He graduated first in his class in engineering and was in the top 2 percent of his overall class. He went on to earn two Master’s degrees, one from the acclaimed JFK School of Government at Harvard University, where he graduated with a perfect 4.0, and the other, where he achieved the highest academic mark ever recorded at the time from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

After graduating from West Point, Ralph had a distinguished military career where he was selected as Officer of the Year of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and served tours in Germany, Vietnam and the United States. During his last military assignment, he served as the military staff assistant to Vice President Walter Mondale.

In 1981, Ralph resigned his commission as major in the U.S. Army and joined Northrop Grumman where he enjoyed a 21-year career and rapidly rose up the company ladder. He was among the youngest vice presidents ever appointed in the company’s 60 year history, and he ran the B-2 program—arguably one of the most important assets in our nation’s strategic arsenal.

On September 1, 2002, Ralph assumed leadership of EADS North America, one of the world’s largest aerospace and defense companies. As chairman and chief executive officer, he has been directly responsible for the company’s activities—and substantial growth—in the United States over the last seven years.

He established a significant aerospace presence in neighboring Mississippi where EADS North America produces the Light Utility Helicopter for the U.S. Army. All have been delivered on schedule and under budget. EADS has become a major employer across the United States supporting more than 190,000 jobs in 17 states and contributing over \$9 billion to the U.S. economy annually.

Alabama—and certainly the city of Mobile—has developed a close relationship with Ralph and EADS over the past several years. Under Ralph’s leadership, EADS selected Brookley Air Field in Mobile as the home for its U.S. production facility for the next-generation aerial refueling tanker. EADS also partnered with Northrop Grumman to launch a joint bid to provide America’s warfighters with the very best equipment, technology, and training to do their jobs and complete their missions.

In recognition of his impressive career and many accomplishments, Ralph was Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine’s runner-up for Person of the Year last year.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Ralph Crosby for being named the Boss of the Year for 2009 and, in so doing, recognize him for his many outstanding accomplishments.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated professional and friend. I know his family—his wife, Mary Grace; their children, Ralph and Laura Grace; and their beautiful grandchildren—as well as his many friends and colleagues join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years.

HONORING ALEX ADAMEK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Adamek, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alex Adamek for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2410) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, to modernize the Foreign Service, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, H.R. 2410, the Foreign Affairs Authorization, has several laudable provisions that would improve our national security and our country’s standing in the world. But it includes language that grants Congressional endorsement of preemptive war against Iran.

The provision in question says “It is the sense of Congress that Israel has the inalienable right to defend itself in the face of an imminent nuclear or military threat from Iran . . .” Among the lessons that should have been learned from the war in Iraq is that preemptive war based on an imminent threat (real or perceived) is a violation of recognized rights under international law and undermines a nation’s standing in the international community. Rather than recognizing Israel’s right to self defense against an imminent attack, a right recognized by international law, this bill contains language that supports preemptive war against a threat. A war with Iran is not in Israel’s best interest, it is not in the United States best interest, and it is not in the world’s